(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The estimates of employment and unemployment are available from quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment. As per the latest two rounds of NSSO, employment opportunities on CDS basis, increased from 315.84 million in 1993-94 to 336.75 million in 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Plan envisages creation of 50 million employment opportunities during 2002-07. Tenth Plan has identified sectors/sub-sectors, which will be developed for creating employment opportunities. These include agriculture, including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing; horticulture and related areas; small and medium industries; construction; tourism; information technology; financial services; education and health.

Malnourishment in India

319. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Food and Agricultural Organization data, 51 per cent of the world's undernourished are from the South Asia region;

(b) if so, the share of India;

(c) the percentage of undernourished and the stunted growth children;

(d) the reasons for the wide spread undernourishment in India; and

(e) the steps being taken to rectify the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) According to data in the FAO publication "The state of food insecurity in the world 2003", there are 842 million undernourished persons in the world. Of this 291.1 million undernourished persons live in South-Asia (34.5%); 213.7 million Indians (25.3% of the undernourished persons in the world) are undernourished.

(c) The UNICEF Publication, State of world children 2003 indicates that the following percentage of under 5 children in India are suffering from under nutrition :

* Moderate and severe underweight (47%)

* Severe underweight (18%)
* Moderate and severe wasting (46%)
* Moderate and severe stunting (46%)

(d) Demographic socioeconomic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, high fertility, poor sanitation, lack of safe drinking water, high infection rate and limited access to health care during pregnancy, low birth weight, poor infant and child feeding practices and poor access to child health care services are some of the major factors associated with the under nutrition in children. Natural calamities such as drought further aggravate the problem.

(e) The Tenth Plan strategies for the reduction, prevention detection and management of under nutrition in children are

Prevention of undernutrition through nutrition education aimed at

* ensuring appropriate infant feeding practices (universa colostrum feeding, exclusive breast feeding up to six months introduction of semisolids at six months);
* promoting appopriate intra-family distribution of food based on requirements;

Operationalising universal screening of all infants, preschool and school children for under-nutrition.

Operationalisation of nutrition interventions for the management of under-nutrition through :

* targeted food supplementation and health care for unde nourished children;
* effective monitoring of these children;
* utilisation of the panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) for effective inter-sectoral coordination and convergence of services and improving community participation in planning and monitoring of the ongoing interventions to reduce undernutrition in children.

The Tenth Plan goals to be achieved by 2007 are

* Enhancement in exclusive breast feeding rate for children to the age of six months from the current rate of 55.2 per cen (as per NFHS-2) to 80 per cent.

* Enhancement complementary feeding rate at six months from the current level 33.5 per cent (as per NFHS-2) to 75 per cent.

* Bringing down the prevalence of underweight in children from the current level of 47 per cent to 40 per cent.

* Reduction in prevalence of severe undernutrition in children in the 0.6 years age group by 50 per cent.

Monitoring of items of Ministries

320. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that PMO has selected over a hundred items from various Ministries for regular monitoring;

(b) if so, the details of the items identified;

(c) the progress observed by the Prime Minister;

(d) whether it is also a fact only half of the items have recorded impressive performance;

(e) if so, the reasons for the lack of progress in the rest of the items; and

(f) the steps being taken for uniform progress of these subjects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) 31 Thrust Areas relating to schemes and projects have been identified for monitoring by the Prime Minister. A list of these 31 Thrust Areas is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(c) to (f) The over all performance of implementation of these Ti irust Areas is observed to be satisfactory. The performance of the Thrust Areas involving participation of a number of agencies arid the State Governments, however, indicates further scope for improvement. Thrust Areas requiring involvement of multiple agencies and participation of various State Government authorities are expedited through coordination meeting at higher levels. In some Thrust Areas, Group of Ministers monitors to expedite the concurrence and views of-the participating agencies.